



Dear Parents,

As we wrap up February, it's been lovely to see everyone return to school with such positivity. We hope the rainy weather didn't stop you from having a well-deserved and enjoyable half-term break. The children have come back full of energy, ready to learn, and it's been wonderful to see classrooms buzzing once again. With brighter days on the horizon, we're excited for everything the next few weeks will bring.

'Together we are proud, together we are STOKE'

Successful, Trustworthy, Original, Kind, Equal



A message from our Head of School - Mrs Massey-Sturgess

One of the most rewarding parts of my role is seeing our school values come alive in every corner of our community. Whenever I walk around the school, I witness our pupils and staff embody what it means to be successful, trustworthy, original, kind and equal.

Success is celebrated not just in academic achievements, but in the courage to try new things and persevere through challenges. Trustworthiness shines through in the honesty and integrity everyone at Stoke shows one another. Originality is alive in the creativity of our pupils' ideas and approaches. Kindness is evident in the everyday gestures that make our school a supportive and welcoming place. And equality is at the heart of all we do—ensuring everyone feels valued, respected and included.

Seeing these values in action reminds me why our school is so special. Our shared commitment to these principles shapes a community where everyone can thrive. I encourage you to take a moment to ask your children how they see these values being lived out, and I look forward to continuing celebrating our "living values" with them throughout the term



A message from our Executive Head - Mr Chris Partridge

Stoke St Michael has recently benefitted from redecoration in several classrooms and the main hall, creating brighter, more engaging spaces that promote a positive learning environment for all pupils. The refreshed areas feel welcoming and purposeful, reflecting the pride we take in our school. We have also installed a new pathway between Hive Class and the main building, ensuring that children can move safely and confidently between areas throughout the day. As part of the Wessex Learning Trust, we are able to draw upon a wide range of expertise and support to continue developing our school environment and ensuring it meets the needs of our children both now and in the future.





Highlights from around the school

Goldfinches Shine in Learning and Creativity

Goldfinches have had a wonderfully busy month, diving into their learning with enthusiasm. In maths, Reception and Year 1 have been exploring doubling and practising number bonds to 20, showing fantastic focus and growing confidence. The children have also been developing their coordination in PE, working on footwork, agility and dynamic balance. Hopping and skipping may look simple, but they're tricky skills to master — and Goldfinches have been giving it their all each week.

A real highlight has been the build-up to our Creative Showcase. The children have spent time constructing, experimenting with ideas and letting their imaginations shine. Their artwork and creations reflect so much thought, effort and joy. Thank you to everyone who joined us — and a huge well done to Goldfinches for sharing their wonderful work so proudly.



A Creative and Active Term for Woodpeckers



Woodpeckers have had a wonderfully busy term, building on their gymnastics learning and showing great determination as they developed their counter-balancing skills. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow as they worked together and supported one another.

The class has also been putting the finishing touches to their creations for the Creative Showcase, and their enthusiasm has really shone through. As a special treat, the children enjoyed decorating their own mini King Cakes using the traditional colours of green, purple and gold — bright, cheerful and beautifully made, even if no one uncovered a hidden baby king this time. Alongside all this, Woodpeckers have continued to make the most of their Forest School sessions, exploring, discovering and embracing the outdoors with curiosity and joy.



Woodpeckers Wonderful Day at the American Museum & Gardens

Woodpeckers had a fantastic visit to the American Museum & Gardens, their curiosity, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour made the trip truly memorable. During our visit, the children discovered fascinating facts about American history, including learning about Indigenous tribes and Native American cultures. One of the highlights was the chance to handle real historical artefacts — an experience that sparked lots of thoughtful questions and lively discussion. They also enjoyed exploring the museum's exhibits and worked brilliantly together to build a large map of America, showing great teamwork and problem-solving skills. It was a joy to see their excitement and engagement at every stage of the day. We're incredibly proud of them.



Ravens Learning, Creating and Staying Curious

Ravens have enjoyed a wonderfully varied and engaging term, exploring new skills across the curriculum. In Spanish, the children have been practising how to ask for food, growing in confidence as they use simple phrases in conversation. Their creativity has also been on full display in art, where they have been working with clay to make coil vases — a careful, hands-on process that has really captured their imagination. In computing, the class has been learning how to design a house by creating holes in 3D objects and experimenting with scale, showing great problem-solving and perseverance.

In PE, Ravens have been busy learning yoga alongside developing their ball skills. They were especially keen to record their poses and share their final performance, and I'm sure you'll agree they've worked incredibly hard and should feel very proud of themselves. As part of Internet Safety Week, the children have also been learning about AI and why it's important to check information carefully, especially when it may have been generated by technology.

A real highlight has been the buzz around their Creative Showcase. The children have thrown themselves into their projects with enthusiasm, and the excitement in the classroom has been wonderful to see. Go Ravens — what a fantastic term of learning, creativity and curiosity.



Children's Mental Health Week

We recently took time in school to recognise Children's Mental Health Week. The children took part in a special assembly focused on the theme of belonging. Together, we explored what belonging means and how it shows up in their everyday lives — from being part of a football team to feeling included within their class or friendship groups.

We talked about the importance of being yourself and how being true to who you are can help you find your place in a community. The children listened to a story about a girl starting at a new school where everything felt unfamiliar. She loved drawing, so she spent time doing what she enjoyed. Gradually, other children joined her, and together they created a drawing club. By following her interests and being herself, she found a sense of belonging in her new environment.

To finish the session, we practised some mindful breathing. The children learnt how simple breathing techniques can help them relax and feel calm whenever they need it.

Families are encouraged to continue these gentle conversations at home by talking about a place where their child feels calm or happy, and why it matters to them. For anyone who would like further ideas to support wellbeing at home, a range of free family activities is available online.

[Families and communities - Children's Mental Health Week](#)



Stoke St. Michael Primary School

Together We Are Proud, Together We Are STOKE

The monthly Newsletter from Stoke St Michael

Friday 27th February 2026

World Book Day

We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Developing a love of reading is incredibly important to us, and any excuse to shout about books is always welcome!

This year, we're embracing the official theme of reading for fun. Instead of dressing as book characters, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite hobby or favourite thing to do – with the idea that they might also enjoy reading about that interest. Whether it's football, baking, dancing, gardening, crafting or anything else they love, we can't wait to see their creativity. If they have a book linked to their chosen hobby, they are very welcome to bring it in to share, but this is not essential.

World Book Day promises to be a joyful celebration of stories, interests, and the simple pleasure of reading.

Staffing

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Leah Riggs, who is leaving us to pursue a new career path. We would like to thank Leah for her many years of dedicated support to our school community and wish her every success and happiness in her new adventure.

On a positive note, we are delighted to share that Mrs Conolly has been successfully appointed and will be joining us after the Easter holidays. She will be working in Goldfinches as a job share with Mrs Wyatt. Mrs Conolly brings with her many years of Early Years experience, including work in another small school. She demonstrated strong teaching skills and a clear understanding of the strengths and challenges of working within a mixed-age class in a small village setting, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the team.

You may also have seen our recent social media advertisement for an Office Assistant. We will shortly be advertising for Leah's replacement, and we have also been successful in securing an additional Level 3 appointment to further strengthen our provision. More details will follow soon.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday 15th March

All are welcome to join us in St. Michael's Church, Stoke St. Michael, for a Family Service celebrating Mothering Sunday at 11am on Sunday 15th March. There will be coffee and crafts after the service.

Please note: Stokers are invited to join the service at 11am instead of the usual 10.30.

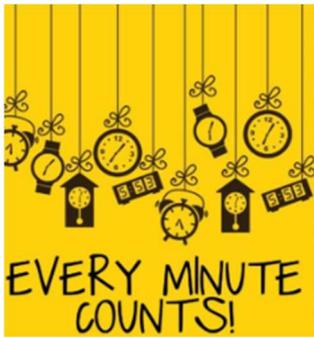
Follow us on facebook/stokestmichaelchurch for more news and information including our weekly Coffee and Chat, PCSO visits, Easter services, Sunday children's group and more!



Supporting every child to look smart and feel confident

At Stoke St. Michael Primary, we believe that looking smart helps children feel confident, focused and ready to learn, and wearing the correct uniform gives every child a strong sense of belonging. We kindly remind families to ensure children come to school in the correct uniform each day. Both the current and previous school logos are absolutely fine to wear. Please click [here](#) to view our full uniform policy on the school website. Thank you for your continued support Together we are proud, together we are STOKE'

Attendance and Punctuality reminder



Our attendance for this month is **93.76%**. We would like to remind families of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Arriving on time helps children settle calmly into the school day and ensures they don't miss valuable learning time. If your child is absent due to illness, please remember that parents and carers must contact the school office every day their child is off — not just on the first day. You can do this by phone or email.

Tel: 01749 343114

E-mail: office@stokestmichaelprimary.co.uk

If there is no one in the office, please leave a message on the voicemail, and we will pick it up

Over the coming months, we will also be taking a more proactive approach to supporting attendance. Improving our whole-school figure is an important focus for us, and we are keen to work closely with families so that, together, we can move closer to the national average of around 94–95%. Our aim is always to support children in being in school, ready to learn, and able to make the most of every day.

Regular updates help us keep accurate records and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils.

School Office



Don't forget that our school has an official Instagram page! This provides another great way to stay up to date with the latest school news, events, and updates. To keep in touch and see what's happening, simply follow us on both Facebook and/or Instagram.

We encourage you to **like, share, and spread the word** by sharing our posts on your own social media pages and groups. Your support helps us reach even more families and keep our community engaged!

- <https://www.facebook.com/StokeStMichaelSchool/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/StokeStMichaelprimary>



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Term Dates

March

Thursday 5th World Book Day

April

Wednesday 1st Parents' Evening

Thursday 2nd Last Day of Term 4

Friday 3rd Easter Holidays Begin

Monday 20th First Day of Term 5

May

Monday 4th May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 11th –
Thursday 14th SATS Week

Friday 22nd Last Day of Term 5

Monday 25th -
Friday 29th Half Term

June

Monday 1st First Day of Term 6

Monday 22nd –
Wednesday 24th Kilve Court Residential – Year 5 & 6

July

Wednesday 1st Sports Day

Wednesday 8th Reserve Sports Day

Friday 17th Last Day of Term 6

Monday 20th –
Wednesday 22nd Inset Days

Thursday 23rd Summer Holidays Begin